

Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 2

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Jan. 14, 2005

Laughlin's Ops group sets pace with 'COOL'

Base first in command to launch web site to track aircrew and flyers' information

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

Laughlin recently distinguished itself as the first in the command to use an electronic operations and flight safety program.

The web, site called Center Ops on line (COOL), serves as the 47th Operations Group's homepage and allows safety of flight information to be centrally located.

"COOL, an enterprise-designed internet-based Go-No-Go verification system, was implemented by the 47th OG Standardization and Evaluation unit and modified to meet Laughlin's needs by Maj. Ed Cavanaugh, a 96th Flying Training Squadron full-time reservist," said Maj. Kirk Montgomery, 47th OG

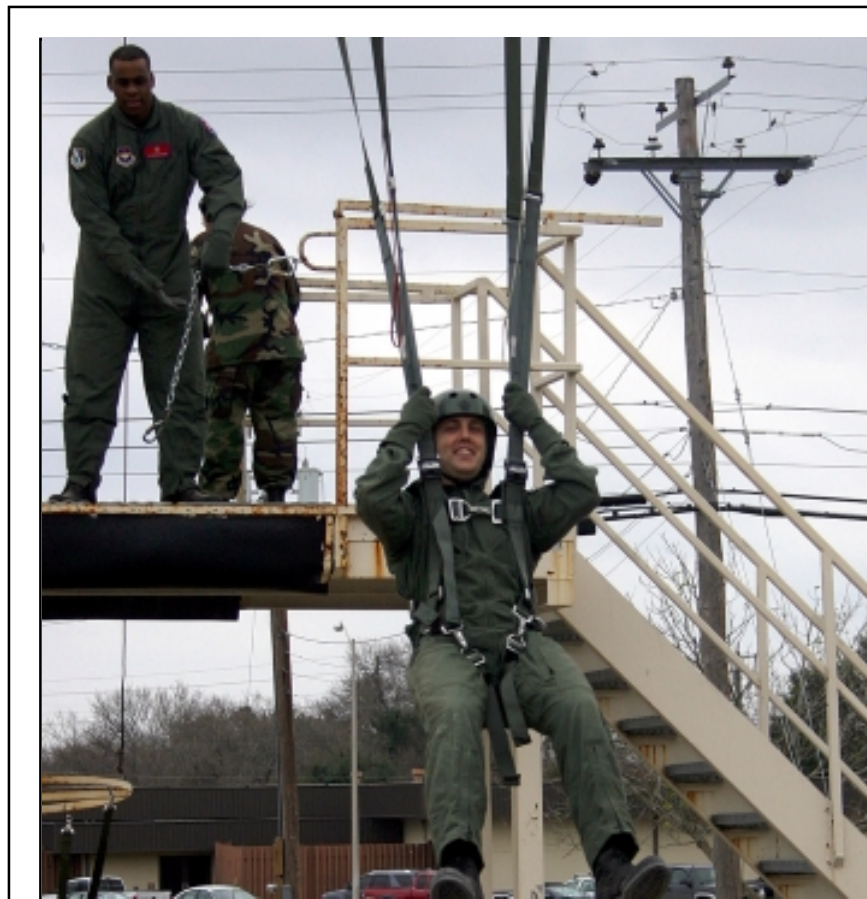


Photo by Staff. Sgt. Kristin Mack

Perfect landing...

Second Lt. Martin Greene, a 85th Flying Training Squadron T-6 student pilot receives training on how to use parachutes and landing techniques here Monday. All students of the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training classes here are trained on parachutes and egress by the 47th Aerospace Physiology before they can fly airplanes.

Standards Evaluation chief. "Laughlin is the first Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training base to use this internet-based program

to track aircrew and flyers' information," he said.

See 'COOL,' page 4

Main gate closed while suspicious vehicle is searched

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

An individual was questioned here Monday night by 47th Security Forces members for acting erratically while trying to gain unauthorized entry to the base.

After the individual was transported to an alternate location for

questioning, a Laughlin K-9 trained in explosives detection alerted on his vehicle. An emergency response force responded.

The main gate was closed to traffic and as standard procedures dictate, an explosives ordnance disposal team from Lackland Air Force Base was called to assist.

Commending the effort of the security forces members and the re-

action of community members during the incident, Col. Keith Traster, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander said, "The Laughlin team responded to the incident with the utmost professionalism and skill. Help from emergency response agencies like the Del Rio and

See 'Main gate,' page 4

Newslines

Contracting squadron closure

The 47th Contracting Squadron will be closed at 2:30 p.m. today due to an official function.

In case of emergency, call 719-9499 or 765-4782 or the command post at 298-5167 for contracting assistance.

Normal operations will resume 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Vote in state/local elections

Don't miss the opportunity to vote in the 2005 local and state elections.

Fill out and send a Federal Post Card Application to your local election official in your home state to register and receive absentee ballot information for 2005.

For assistance, see your Unit Voting Assistance Counselor or call the Wing Voting Hotline at 298-5873.

Counselors are listed at <https://home.laughlin.af.mil/voting/Laughlin%20UVACs.xls>

Fiesta Center closed for ORI

The ORI team will be occupying the Fiesta Center from Saturday through Feb. 2.

Consequently, the Fiesta Center schedule during that time is cancelled, and the game room will be closed.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	49
Returning in 30 days:	30
Deploying in 30 days:	2

Mission status

(As of Wednesday)

Days behind or ahead:

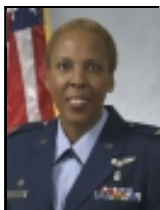
T-1, -1.47	T-38, 3.51
T-38C, -0.59	T-6, -9.9

Mission capable rate

(As of Monday)

T-38C, 93.6%	T-1, 87.1%
T-38A, 74.3%	T-6, 96.4%

War fit: Not a race, lifelong journey



Commander's Corner

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group commander

I'm cruising around the track, the wind at my face, the crisp morning air awakening with bird song excitement of the new day. My mantra is the steady sound of my breathing. My mind is clear. Life is good.

Suddenly, my reverie is shattered by heavy footsteps, beating hard, fast approaching from behind. I brace myself as a sleek runner whooshes past, hardly breaking a sweat, effortlessly bounding like a deer in the field. My pace slows, I stagger, my inner peace devastated by the reality that I am but a tortoise, running the race of hares. I dejectedly walk along a few paces berating myself for not being faster, thinner, stronger, until suddenly it hits me; why should it matter that I got left in

the dust?

The fact is I've logged more miles in the past year than I have for the past 45 years of my life. I've been watching what I eat, grunting through push-ups and sit-ups, and I felt pretty darn good when I scored a 92.5 on my last test. Why should it matter what anyone else is doing? Why should it matter that I will never achieve a 29 inch waist? The answer is as clear as the healthy grey hair on my head: it doesn't.

The intent of the War Fit program is to make individuals accountable for their personal fitness. You're only competing against yourself to ensure a level of fitness you can live with, literally. The push-ups, sit-ups, and especially the waist measurement, are indicators of your individual risk for heart disease and stroke. The goal isn't to maximize all parameters to get the perfect score; the goal is to develop a life long commitment to lifestyle changes and a fitness routine that will keep you fit for life.

Everyone needs to meet or exceed the minimal pass score,

because that means you have achieved the level of fitness required of a successful airman and healthy individual. It's not about the race; it's about the journey. Our paradigm shift must be to make basic lifestyle choices to ensure we have a daily program that improves our quality of life. We are being held accountable for our choices; what we choose to eat or drink, if we choose to use tobacco or choose to stay physically active. Our goal should be to make all the right choices for the benefit of a longer, healthier life in our military career and beyond.

War Fit is about becoming a better warrior by becoming a healthier person. The race isn't a sprint, it's a lifelong journey. If you've stopped your daily fitness routine because you just passed your test, or if you don't have a fitness routine and you're just hoping to get by; you're not even in the race, you're just a spectator on the side.

The reality of War Fit is that at the end of the road it doesn't matter one bit who wins the race, it just matters that you're in it.

Wing's focus points toward upcoming ORI

By Lt. Col. Tom Lukenic
*47th Flying Training Wing
Inspector General*

With the holidays safely behind us and staff members back and (hopefully!) well rested from the break, the wing's focus will shift sharply to our upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled to begin Jan. 24.

ORI's are the one time a wing truly gets to show off its professional expertise and core competencies, the one time short of actual war where we are tasked to "show what we can do."

While not all inclusive, based on input from the Air Education and Training Command IG team and my own time on PACAF's inspection team, I've enclosed a few ideas that I hope will help in final preparation for the visit.

Read the ORI reports from the last two years: Reviewing how other installations have performed and what areas have garnered kudos as well as write-ups is invaluable as you review your own organizations preparedness. This can reveal information and lessons learned that apply across all of AETC. Wing Self-Inspection monitors should have password access to these reports, if not please contact me and I'll get you what you need.

Be savvy about those inspection checklists: These checklists are not formal platform for conducting inspections in AETC—the command functionals write them and are responsible for updating them. Checklists provide excellent guidelines but simply answering a checklist is no substitute for understanding and complying with

the underlying source guidance. Inspectors may reference checklists, they can and will look beyond them – compliance with written guidance is the key, not just a checklist.

Don't make major organizational changes within a few months of the ORI: Although commanders have the right to make that call, the IG team has inspected a number of units where supervisors were unaware of who they rated, and subordinates did not even know who their boss was. All of this was due to changes undertaken just prior to the team arriving.

Don't change local guidance too close to the ORI: This includes supplements, in-flight guides, pilot aides, etc. The team

See 'ORI,' page 3

Border Eagle

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The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News-Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

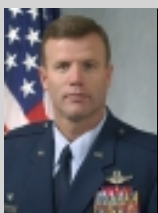
Submissions can be e-mailed to: olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."

— 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

Your Air Expeditionary Force needs you

By Maj. Gen Bob DuLaney
U.S. Air Force in Europe air and
space operations director

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — For the past six years, our Air Force has used the Air Expeditionary Force construct to meet the air and space power needs of our nation, tweaking the AEF as necessary to improve it and adapt it to meet emerging challenges.

One of those adjustments has been to expand the pool of AEF-eligible Airmen.

The Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John Jumper, said it best.

"Let me be perfectly clear. In our Air Force, every Airman is expeditionary, every Airman will know his or her place in the AEF system, and every Airman will be prepared to support the combatant commander, whether deployed, in CONUS via reachback, or employed at home station. If you are wearing the uniform of the United States Air Force, you are part of the AEF."

That seems pretty clear to me. Note the lack of any escape clauses such as, "unless you're really important," or "unless you're an O-6."

Our nation is at war and our combatant commanders need you, regardless of rank or position, and they need you to be ready to fight when you reach their theater.

The AEF process was designed with predictability in mind. By placing you in an AEF bucket, you can enjoy some measure of stability by knowing when you can expect to deploy. This affords you, your family, your co-workers and your supervisor an opportunity to plan for your absence. Use this valuable lead time to get your personal life in order, including finances, wills and childcare plans.

It is also imperative to get your professional life in order. Update or create your continuity books so those left behind can cover your duties and ensure continued mission success for your unit.

Take a look at your professional military education and promotion timelines and make appropriate plans. Do you need to take care of any performance reports or feedback sessions?

Institutionally, we are getting pretty good at making sure our Airmen are getting their personal lives in order, but we also need to make sure we are taking care of

the unit when our men and women proceed down range.

Supervisors and leaders, your involvement is critical to our success. You also need to plan for your troops' rotations. Find a replacement or plan on redistributing duties to other members of your team. Will there be some degradation and turmoil? Probably, but what everyone needs to understand is we are all in this together — we are at war. As an Air Force, we must support our combatant commanders.

Don't try to "protect" your key players from the AEF. If they are really that good, then our combatant commanders need them more than you do! Almost all of us train during peacetime to perform a wartime mission; you owe it to the American taxpayers to put their warriors into the fight. As an added bonus, a key player's absence provides opportunities for those left behind as they step up to fill in or learn a new duty. It truly can be a win-win for our Air Force.

If you are in a leadership position, make sure your team is ready to fight.

No matter who you are, if you are wearing Air Force blue, your AEF needs you.

ORI, from page 2

has seen units change their own guidance, for which they are then held accountable, and it is so new their own people are completely unfamiliar with it. Too many changes before the ORI leads to confusion and noncompliance.

Articulate what you do: One way to accomplish this is to write a one-page talking paper for each level of supervision down to the flight commander. It helps define what you do, and may help you find ways to do it better. Inspectors are not looking for a fancy, color splashed, photo-enhanced gigantic binder with bells and whistles — they are seeking facts to validate. If you have a golden calf don't hope and pray the IG will find it. Take ownership and show it off. Show

how you designed it, developed it, funded it and what impact it's had on the mission.

Have a positive attitude: You start out with a satisfactory rating and the IG assumes you are meeting mission requirements. Occasionally they've run into uncooperative units that create unpleasant interviewing situations that deteriorate further. This makes it very difficult for the inspector to highlight the positives or even go and look for them if it goes too far. Help them help you — smile when you first meet your inspector, offer them a cup of coffee, if possible try and have a small area set aside where they can work or set up a small office. The IG is not your Friday night drinking buddy but he is a professional colleague and should be treated with respect and courtesy. Don't sit on your best prac-

tices: The IG has frequently seen units wait until inspection time to formally submit a best practice. This neither hurts nor helps a unit — the AETC viewpoint is, submit them as you develop them and just keep a copy of the submission request — don't delay waiting for an ORI. I know the 47th Flying Training Wing isn't — I've signed off on almost 20 over the past 5 months. Keep a copy in your units continuity book or include it in any brief you give your individual inspector.

There are no hard and fast ways to prepare completely for an ORI.

Knowing your job, doing it well, documenting your successes and keeping an upbeat, positive attitude will go a long way to ensuring your unit's, and ultimately the whole wing's success.

COOL, from page 1

Formerly, all flyers in the operations group had to track their information manually and sign the 'Flight Crew Information File (FCIF),' a formal way of notifying aircrew members of items that can affect safety of flight.

"But with 'COOL,' both the individual and supervisors have the visibility that everything has been 100-percent reviewed prior to flight," said Major Montgomery.

The enterprise program, originally designed by a team of contractors from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., allows aircrew to have immediate access to

the FCIF, operational risk management, emergency procedures and general knowledge tests.

The program also contains links for aircrew so they can access squadron homepages and other useful sites.

The COOL homepage uses a system of color coded blocks of information. The sub-areas are colored 'green' if the user is good-to-go and 'red' if they are not.

"In general, the Go-No-Go functionality of the website is self explanatory," said Major Montgomery.

"It allows every member of the 47th OG to know what they are 'green' and what they are 'red' for be-

fore they step to fly."

COOL is web-based and allows authorized users access via the base LAN, so there is no special application that must be installed on any computer.

It also allows users to efficiently manage aircrew testing and aircrew currency.

In the future, it is hoped to be used for flight authorizations, flight-plan filing, aircraft weight and balance verification, and aircrew flight-evaluation tracking.

The COOL application makes aircrew readiness information available in one place while incorporating the 47th OG regulatory requirements, minimizing data entry and maximizing data

currency.

"It is a mirror that reflects the information from multiple sources, like Training Integration (TIMS) and Aircrew Resource Management Systems (ARMS)," Major Montgomery said.

Furthermore, he said by using the web-based program, everything that used to be tracked manually on a host of different forms is now all located in one spot.

"Although we're not using everything in it, like the scheduling, and mission-planning functions, we are still saving thousands of man hours with the functions we are using," he added.

"Formerly, we could never do our boldface testing using the computer, we al-

ways had to write it on a piece of paper and turn it in to the proper official for grading and filing," Major Montgomery said.

"But the program scores and grades testing immediately."

According to the major, the program saves time and money because everybody in the squadron can take their test at one time without printing a lot of paper for grading.

Major Montgomery said the overall goal of developing the program is to increase the safety of flying operations.

"It gives the supervisors a closer look at what everybody in the squadron is doing."

Main gate, from page 1

Val Verde County Fire Department, the Texas Department of Transportation and EOD team from Lackland was great. Their assistance was key to resolving this situation. My hat's off to the Laughlin members and downtown agencies who came together to control the area and handle the inci-

dent."

According to Major Aeneas Gooding, 47th SFS commander, "The incident truly highlighted the close working relationship between Team XL and our local counterparts. The support we received from the Val Verde Sheriff's Office and Fire Department was unquestionably top-notch. Their response was immediate, and their support during the entire incident was vital

to the safe resolution of a potentially dangerous situation."

"I truly appreciate the efforts of our predecessors to build a strong relationship with the Del Rio community, and the continued efforts of Team XL to maintain it," he said.

He added that base members should call the law enforcement desk at 298-5100 to report suspicious persons or activities.

ORI countdown:

One last tip



Try and set aside a clear work area if you have multiple inspectors visiting your work-center. It gives them some privacy to conduct interviews and write down notes. If possible, computer support can be very helpful.

Veterinary clinic to open

The Laughlin veterinary clinic will be open Jan. 19 and 20 to provide routine health services to eligible cats and dogs.

Their primary mission is to provide quality care to military working dogs assigned here, but they do extend their services two days every month to address minor concerns of animals owned by military personnel.

One of the services they provide is heartworm treatment. Since dogs can contract the disease from something as simple as a mosquito bite, preventative care may be an option. There are monthly heartworm prevention pills available at the clinic.

Other services provided include: shots, checkups, and minor medical treatment.

All current military ID card holders are eligible for this service, however, appointments are mandatory.

Contact Darla Beary at 298-5500 for more information, or to schedule an appointment.

Office hours:

Monday to Friday:
Noon to 4 p.m.

Hours of veterinary care:

Jan. 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 20 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Airman rescues woman, baby from icy river

By Susan Griggs
81th Training Wing public affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — An Airman here plunged into an icy river recently to save a woman and her baby from a sinking car just minutes after proposing to his girlfriend.

While home on leave in Kellyville, Okla., Airman Basic Joshua Johnson went to Tulsa to propose marriage to Brittany Campbell on a pedestrian bridge over the Arkansas River.

Moments after she accepted Airman Johnson's proposal, the couple was returning to his truck when they saw a car swerve down an embankment and plunge into the river. Airman Johnson pulled off his coat and hat and dove in.

By the time the 18-year-old Airman reached the nearly submerged car, only its rear window and trunk were visible. He tried the driver's side door, but it was locked. He banged on the roof of the car and told the driver, 34-year-old Detura Bills, to unlock it.

When he helped her out, the car sank even lower. She screamed that her 2-year-old son, Brandon, was still buckled in his car seat in the back seat.

It took two more dives into the dark, frigid water for Airman Johnson to free the toddler from his car seat and swim to safety. Robert Ewens and Jerome

Wade also jumped into the water to help rescue the little boy.

Airman Johnson said he does not remember much of what happened once he got out of the water, except that someone took the little boy, and he was taken to a car. Once out of the river, hypothermia shock set in and Airman Johnson was treated and released at a nearby hospital. Ms. Bills, Brandon and Mr. Ewens were also treated at area hospitals and released.

Throughout the ordeal, Airman Johnson said he clearly remembers focusing on saving the people inside the car.

"All I was thinking was, 'I don't know who's in there or what, but I need to get them out,'" he said.

Airman Johnson arrived at Keesler in October for basic electronic principles training in the 332nd Training Squadron and is continuing his training in the ground radar course. He said he was surprised by the attention he received over the rescue.

"I did not expect this kind of recognition," he said. "I didn't do it for anything like that."

"I'm very proud of him," said his fiancée. "It was amazing. He didn't even hesitate."

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cohen A. Young

Making the connection...

Staff Sgt. Ralph Nathan assembles an antenna at the international airport, Thailand, Jan. 4. The equipment provides deployed Airmen secure and nonsecure Internet connections and access to military telephone lines. The deployed Airmen are supporting the international tsunami relief efforts in the region where nearly 150,000 people are confirmed dead. Sergeant Nathan is deployed from the 615th Air Mobility Squadron.

'America Support You' links American public with troops

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense officials launched a nationwide program, America Supports You, and Web site to showcase the many activities taking place across the nation in support of the troops. The Web site, which highlights organizations and individuals coordinating local and national support efforts, has logged nearly a million hits since its inception Nov. 19.

Individual citizens, businesses, schools, veterans groups and others have visited www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil to register their activities, send a message to the troops and

identify programs of support in their own communities.

Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for internal communications and public liaison, said that while the Department of Defense knew that many of these programs existed, the site has become a useful tool in "helping to link people and programs, and more importantly, to share these stories of support with the people who need to hear them most — the men and women serving overseas. The feedback from our troops has been tremendous, just as the outpouring of support from the American people has been

overwhelming."

Americans can visit the site and register their activities, large or small, supporting the troops. Everyone who registers receives an official America Supports You dog tag that can be worn as a visible symbol of support for the troops. The dog tags have been seen across the country, worn by celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres and Wayne Newton, and worn by everyday citizens at national events, such as the Macy's Day Thanksgiving Parade, the Fiesta and Rose Bowls and the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square.

Ms. Barber also suggests that businesses, schools, churches, corporations and individuals add a link to the site from their Web sites.

"Servicemembers and their families have told us how much they are inspired by the messages of support from all across the nation that are posted each day. Whether you post a message on the site, or team up with a local group organizing care packages, each and every activity sends the message loud and clear: 'America Supports You,'" she said.

(Courtesy Air Force Print News)

Visit www.homeanddefensejournal.com.
Subscriptions are free to federal, state, local and DoD supervisors and managers.

Tsunami relief effort switches gear, in recovery phase

By Louis A. Arana-Barradas
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO — The tsunami relief effort has switched gears and moved out of the crisis-response stage, the commander of the Air Force expeditionary airlift wing at Utapao, Thailand, said.

Sixteen days after tsunamis hit 12 countries in Southeast Asia, the flow of aid into the region has moved into a more controlled recovery and reconstruction phase, Col. Mark Schissler said. He said the first priority was to meet the crisis.

“The one thing we’ve done that matters is deliver aid that stops suffering and death,” said the deployed commander of the 374th Air Expeditionary Wing.

Since then, the wing — with Airmen from almost 100 units and 14 bases — has set up an airlift and delivery system that is safe and reliable, he said. It was a combined effort, with aircraft from sister services and other nations helping deliver food, water and medicine.

Disaster struck Dec. 26, when the most powerful earthquake in 40 years hit 100 miles of the Indonesian coast. It caused a series of deadly tsunami waves that raced across the Indian Ocean. The killer waves first struck the Indonesian island of Sumatra, and then Thailand. Then it battered Sri Lanka before devastating India and mauling Somalia. In total, 12 nations felt the effect.

When flood waters receded, the devastation was unprecedented. At least 150,000 were dead, thousands were missing and millions lost their homes, families and livelihood.

Airmen soon joined Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, aid workers and troops from local countries to get much needed supplies to the worst hit areas. After the first few days, the wing settled into a rhythm, Colonel Schissler said. This allowed the troops time to catch up and organize, and to set up work areas and communications. The unit has become “more efficient on a daily basis,” he said.

It does not mean, however, that the relief effort is slowing down. Utapao, home of a Thai navy base, is the hub of the humanitarian relief flights. Operations by C-130 Hercules and HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters within the region continue around the clock along with missions by C-17 Globemaster IIIs, C-5 Galaxies and commercially hired transports providing airlift in the region.

Plus, “any country that can get an airplane here [to help] is trying to do that,” the colonel said.

On any given day, wing crews from any location that can service the aircraft, Colonel Schissler said. That includes airfields in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and other countries in the region.

“We’ll use [the airfield] if we can get clearance to go in there, or if there’s aid to pick up there,” the colonel said. As a result, the wing’s aircraft are fly-



Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Senior Airman John Graham inspects a satellite dish during tsunami relief operations in Thailand. He is a technical control specialist deployed from the 18th Communications Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan. The Airmen from the squadron provide communications support such as telephones and internet service to deployed troops.

ing an average of 17 or 18 daily missions within the theater. Other aircraft fly an additional 17 to 20 from outside the theater. That could add up to 40 missions on a busy day, he said.

Airmen are part of the more than 13,000 other U.S. troops — active duty, Guard and Reserve — providing humanitarian support. They make up Combined Support Force 536, the largest U.S. military force in the region since the Vietnam War, officials said. Their effort — known as Operation Unified Assistance — is the largest humanitarian relief effort since the Berlin Airlift.

Those who work on the flightline are keeping up with the hectic pace. Among them is Airman 1st Class Mark Torneskog, who deployed to Utapao on Jan. 3 from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. He said, the seven-hour flight on a KC-135 Stratotanker was grueling.

“We got off the plane and started working before going to the hotel,” the air transportation troop said. “We had to move some stuff around.”

Thus began his 14-hour work days loading and unloading transport aircraft. “This place is pretty busy,” he said.

The fast pace is necessary because the more relief supplies that reach survivors, the less chance of more deaths and disease. Colonel Schissler said the Air Force’s airlift capability will allow a continued quick response.

There are challenges. The region has congested airspace unfamiliar to most of the aircrews. But the Airmen possess “tremendous capability, professionalism, knowledge and the airmanship” to meet the test, he said. As a result, aircrews are moving large quantities of relief goods to where they are needed.

That means a lot of flying for aircrews and work for ground crews.

“Morale is really good. People are excited to be helping — that’s just the way we are,” said Staff Sgt. Rod Hale, an air transportation troop from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. He said he has heard few complaints by co-workers. “Everyone just wants to do their part.”

Many more will get to help, too. In a speech to officials of the U.S. Agency for International Development and other relief groups in Washington, President George W. Bush predicted the effort to help rebuild Asia would take time.

“We have a duty, we have made a commitment, and our commitment is a long-term commitment to help those good folks in the part of the world that got affected get back on their feet,” he said.

For the Airmen at Utapao, that could mean a long tour of duty, but Airman Torneskog said he does not mind. In fact, he wishes he could remain there for three reasons: Everyone is motivated, the work is high intensity, and people must get things done quickly.

“Everyone is working well together, and we’re always up and moving,” he said. “It’s a great work environment. I wish I was stationed here, actually.”

The relief effort has had a double impact, Colonel Schissler said. It has affected Airmen because they are proud to represent their country in the region.

“Most of us wear American flags on our sleeve,” he said.

To the people of the region, the flag “represents capability,” the colonel said. “(It says) we’re a reliable partner when trouble comes their way. I think that’s what people count on; I think we’re welcome everywhere we go.”

Legal
assistance
cancelled

Due to the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection, legal assistance hours are cancelled for Jan. 25 and 27.

Normal Legal Assistance hours are Tuesdays 3 to 4 p.m. and Thursdays 8 to 9 a.m., and will resume during the week of Jan. 31.

Notary and Power of Attorney services, Mondays to Fridays 2 to 3 p.m., will remain in effect.

For details, contact Mrs. Terra Wade in the legal office at 298-5172.

LACKS



**The Air Force
rewards
good ideas with
money.
Check out the
IDEA
Program data
system at
[https://ideas.
randolph.af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil)
or call Tech. Sgt.
Thomas Mayo at
298-4355.**

'Scholarship for military children' application deadline

By Adam Austin
*Defense Commissary Agency
public affairs*

FORT LEE, Va. (AFPN) — The deadline to apply for \$1,500 scholarships from the Scholarships for Military Children program is Feb. 16, and applications must be delivered to a Defense Commissary Agency store by then.

At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants, agency officials said.

The application is available online at www.militaryscholar.org, and at commissaries worldwide.

Edna Hoogewind, the agency's liaison to the program, stresses that students should put emphasis on writing

the essay that is required to accompany the application.

"In past years, the essay has been a key factor in deciding among the many outstanding applicants," she said. This year's topic is "How has the heightened awareness of terrorism impacted your life?"

Officials advise students who are not personally delivering applications to use a delivery method that supplies a return receipt. People applying online can click on the "Verification of Receipt" section. Scholarship managers will respond to "Verification of Receipt" e-mails until June 15, officials said.

Applicants should check all materials carefully for simple things like making sure the application is signed and that it is the 2005 application, of-

ficials said.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children younger than 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active-duty servicemembers, including Coast Guard, Guard and Reserve, and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the system and have current ID cards, officials said.

Applicants must be planning to attend, or be already attending, an accredited college or university fulltime in the fall term of 2005, or be enrolled in a program of study designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Fisher House Foundation, a non-

profit organization best known for building comfort homes near military medical facilities, administers the scholarship program. Scholarship Managers, a professional firm that has handled more than 400 programs, screens applicants and awards scholarships. Neither Fisher House nor the Defense Commissary Agency is involved in the decision process, officials said.

The scholarship program is in its fifth year and has awarded nearly 3,000 scholarships and more than \$3 million since the first scholarship was awarded. They are primarily funded through the voluntary donations of the various manufacturers, brokers and suppliers that sell products in commissaries. The general public also can contribute through a link on the Web site.

AF's former top military lawyer to retire in reduced rank

WASHINGTON — Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche has directed that Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Fiscus, the former Judge Advocate General of the Air Force, be retired in the permanent grade of colonel effective Feb. 1.

Retirement in the grade of colonel instead of major general will result in a future retired pay loss of about \$900,000, Air Force budget officials said.

The estimated loss of future retired pay is based on an additional life expectancy of 29.5 years, using Internal Revenue Service life expectancy tables.

The retirement grade determination follows an Air Force Inspector General investigation and subsequent nonjudicial punishment for several violations under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Gen. Donald G. Cook,

commander of Air Education and Training Command, imposed nonjudicial punishment consisting of the maximum permissible forfeitures of pay and a reprimand Dec. 21.

Secretary Roche made the retirement-grade determination after a review of the report of investigation and after considering recommendations from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, General Cook, and a panel of the Air Force Personnel Council comprised of three lieutenant generals.

Before making his decision, Secretary Roche also considered General Fiscus' entire military record and matters General Fiscus submitted for consideration in the grade determination.

The secretary concluded that he had not served satisfactorily as either a major general or brigadier general.

In the report of investigation, the IG substantiated three categories of allega-

tions. Allegations included unprofessional relationships with both officer and enlisted female subordinates, inappropriate sexual advances toward female subordinates and improper relationships with female civilians. The incidents occurred over 10 years and involved 13 women.

When a commissioned officer retires, federal law requires the service secretaries to determine the highest grade the officer satisfactorily held over the course of his or her career.

"An adverse officer grade determination significantly reduces the retirement benefits of officers who perform unsatisfactorily," said Michael L. Dominguez, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs. "It also provides the Secretary of the Air Force an additional mechanism with which to appropriately address misconduct. The retirement grade reduc-

tion imposes a substantial financial penalty for the officer's misconduct while leaving him some benefits from his long and otherwise distinguished military service."

General Fiscus will also lose the benefit of the privileges and respect normally afforded to retired general officers.

"The actions of Air Force leadership make it clear that such misconduct will not be tolerated, regardless of the grade or position of the offender," General Jumper said.

"General Fiscus has now been held accountable for his misconduct under the UCMJ and by retirement in a lesser grade."

Details of the nonjudicial punishment were recently made public. In the Article 15, General Fiscus was punished for 11 offenses.

"You, a married man, did ... wrongfully and dishonor-

ably engage in an unprofessional relationship and exchange inappropriately intimate e-mail with (a subordinate major) while pursuing a romantic or sexual relationship outside your marriage," read one specification.

Other specifications involved inappropriate touching and kissing, fraternization with a noncommissioned officer, and misuse of government e-mail. Another specification accused the general of attempting to hinder the investigation by deleting incriminating e-mails from his government computer.

General Fiscus served the Air Force for over 32 years and attained the highest rank and position available to a military lawyer.

He now faces a review of his conduct under attorney professional responsibility standards.

The *XLer*

Staff Sgt. Antonio Washington
47th Component Maintenance Division

Hometown:
Clarksdale, Miss.
Family: Wife, Tamarro,
daughter, Takasia and one
baby in the oven... due
sometime in July
Time at Laughlin:
Two years, 3 months
Time in service:
Eight years, four months
Greatest accomplishment:
Staying focused on getting
my degree
Hobbies: Singing, learn-
ing to play the keyboard
and fiddling with my com-
puter
Bad habit: Not giving
enough to my family
Favorite movies: “The
” and “Heat”



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi



Air Force News ONLINE

Access current news and information at United States Air Force
Online News, the official newspaper
of the United States Air Force
With a simple mouse click go to
www.af.mil/news

Chapel
information

Catholic

<i>Monday - Friday</i>	1 Mass, 12:05 p.m.
<i>Saturday</i>	1 Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment
<i>Sunday</i>	1 Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.
<i>Thursday</i>	1 Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

Protestant

<i>Wednesday</i>	1 Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies’ Bible Study, 9 a.m.
<i>Sunday</i>	1 General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater

Chaplain Staff

<i>Wing chaplain:</i>	Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic
<i>Senior Protestant:</i>	Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA
<i>Protestant:</i>	Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church
<i>Protestant:</i>	Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

**For more information on other denominations, chapel
events or services, call 298-5111. For information on
special events, see the Community Calendar on
page 16.**

2X3

1X3

2X3

Firefighters return from deployment

By Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack
Public Affairs

Nine firefighters from the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron arrived here last week after completing a four-month Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation in Northeast Iraq.

Upon their arrival, several fellow XLers, including Col. Tod Wolters, the 47th Flying Training Wing commander, were on hand to welcome the group home.

“It is an honor to allow our troops to serve this mission,” said Colonel Wolters, following his welcome brief to the group.

He added that he served in an AEF tour about this time last year.

The mission of the deployed firefighters was to support airport firefighting in Iraq.

They also had the opportunity to work with Iraqi oil workers, where they facilitated communication through a translator.

“It was an experience,” said Airman 1st Class Karl Schnoes, a 47th CES firefighter.

“They are the nicest people you will ever meet and are thankful for what we are doing over there,” he said.

During the summer months, the troops spent the bulk of their time performing control fires, Airman Schnoes said.

“When mortars and rockets hit we



already had the grass burned off so it made our job a lot easier.”

As the months grew colder, the firefighters became more heavily involved in training the Kurdish oil workers.

The training shifts lasted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., three to six days a week.

Spending such a large amount of time with the foreign workers allowed them to gain new insight into their culture.

“They loved having their picture taken, Airman Schnoes said. “Every opportunity they got they would ask to pose in a photo.”

Although the returnees were overjoyed to be back and share their experiences, they were even more excited to move on to the next part of their day.

Upon completing their in-processing requirements, they were released to enjoy two weeks of rest and recuperation in the local area. This mandated time off allows them to rejuvenate, said Colonel Wolters.

It gives them an opportunity to handle their personal affairs so they can report back to duty with a fresh mind, he said.



(Above) Airman 1st Class Karl Schnoes, a 47th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, and other eight members arrived here after completing a four-month deployment to Iraq.

(Below) Firefighters from the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron pose for a photo before they head off to the personnel deployment facility for inprocessing. They returned home recently from a four-month deployment in Northeast Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack

MLK observance: a time to celebrate, act

Holiday pays tribute to Dr. King's legacy, inspires people to serve in community

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public Affairs

When America celebrates the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday Monday, many people will reflect on what the observance and his legacy means to them.

The national holiday will feature parades, speeches, banquets, memorial programs, community service projects, and an array of other activities organized to commemorate the civil rights leader's life and achievements.

"Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off" is the theme for the annual observance.

As part of local festivities, Del

Rio will have its first-ever Martin Luther King Jr. March, beginning at 10 a.m. Monday at Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church, 920 North Main St.

Everyone is welcome to participate. The march will end at the Val Verde County court house grounds, where guest speakers (including Col. Laura Torres-Reyes, 47th Medical Group commander), entertainment, food and drinks are planned.

"The march symbolizes Dr. King's life and work toward nonviolent social change in America and the world," said Joni Jordan, 47th Mission Support Group human resources specialist and organizer of the event. "Hopefully, it will help educate the younger generation about Dr. King's contribution to the field of civil rights."

Ms. Jordan, who has planned many community activities in Del Rio and at Laughlin for special observances such as the King holiday, said Dr. King's legacy has had a tremendous impact in every



aspect of today's society like voting rights, education and freedom.

"The holiday is a time to remember the injustices that Dr. King fought and his fight for the freedom, equality and dignity of all races and people," said Ms. Jordan.

Dr. King was instrumental in organizing the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott between 1955 and 1956. The boycott, considered the beginning of the civil rights movement in America, eventually led to the end of black patrons having to sit at the back of the city's buses.

That movement led to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, more than 48 years ago, that segregation was unconstitutional.

"We no longer have to go to the back of the bus," said Ms. Jordan. "We can obtain lodging in hotels, and sit in a restaurant and eat a meal instead of going to the kitchen door to get food and leave."

Ms. Jordan said she wonders what America would be like today if Dr. King had not worked to confront those difficult issues that plagued the country.

That work is what many people look to act on and advance as they celebrate the holiday and continue Dr. King's legacy.

"The thing people can do today to support Dr. King's legacy is get

involved in the community in which they are a part of," said Anthony McKinney, 47th Medical Support Squadron drug demand reduction program manager. "A community can be your job, neighborhood, school, or church. Wherever there are people, you have a community."

Mr. McKinney, who is the featured speaker for today's Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon at Club XL, said that what he remembers most about Dr. King's mission was his nonviolent approach to fight against evil and immorality.

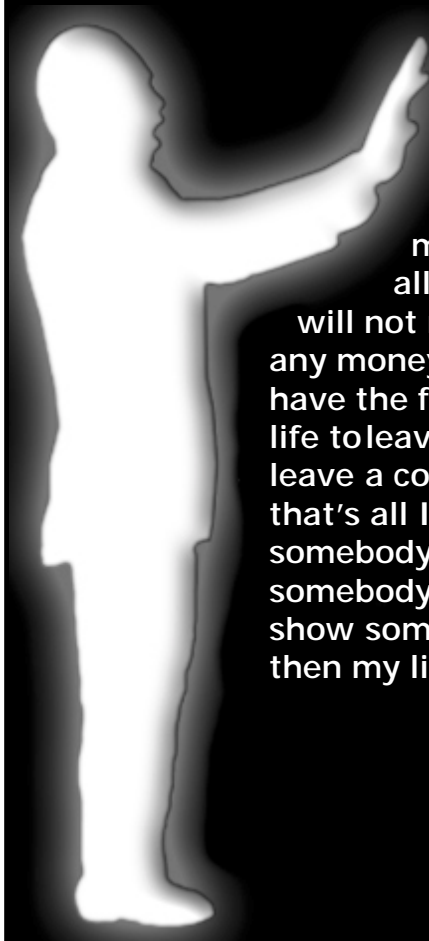
"There's so much senseless violence in the world we live in today," said Mr. McKinney. "As it has been said, 'if we take an eye for an eye, we'll all be blind.'"

"When I think about the importance of celebrating Dr. King's holiday, I believe we are celebrating one man's willingness to make a difference to improve the quality of life for all men," he said. "It's crucial that Dr. King's mission for equality for all mankind is never forgotten."

Congress passed the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday legislation in 1983, which was then signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

The first national celebration of the holiday took place Jan. 20, 1986. It is celebrated each year on the third Monday in January.

Drum major ...



"Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major. Say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. Say that I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter. I won't have any money to leave behind. I won't have the fine and luxurious things in life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind. And that's all I want to say. If I can help somebody as I pass along, if I cheer somebody with a word or song, if I can show somebody he is traveling wrong, then my living will not be in vain."

-- From "The Drum Major Instinct," a sermon by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1968.

Source: www.thekingcenter.org

Operation Hero ‘deploys’ Airmen’s children

Story and photos by Staff
Sgt. Robert Zoellner
33rd Fighter Wing public affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Today’s servicemember has a good understanding of what a deployment is, how it goes and what to do. But sometimes family members, especially the children, do not understand what is happening or why their mom or dad has to go.

Children of 33rd Fighter Wing Airmen recently got a taste of what their parents have to go through when they deploy and live in a deployed environment.

Operation Hero “deployed” children to better familiarize them with what their parents have to do when they are called upon to deploy.

“The parents volunteer; the kids don’t volunteer,” said Col. Brett Williams, 33rd FW commander. “We need the support of the kids just as much as we do the spouses. It’s important, and we hope we gave them the opportunity to see a little about what their parents do and where they go.”

The children were issued badges and identification tags and had to use these items to positively identify themselves during the deployment to enter different “zones.”

Six zones were set up, and after a slide presentation, the children were divided into groups and sent to different zones.

The zones featured an explosive ordnance disposal robot demonstration, a military working-dog demonstration,

a “tent city” living area, chemical warfare equipment, a firetruck and firefighters and an F-15 Eagle display.

The zones gave the children a chance to get up close and personal with the things their parents see and do during deployments.

Edwin Santos Jr., son of Tech. Sgt. Edwin Santos who is assigned to the 33rd Maintenance Operations Squadron, said he liked the K-9 demonstration.

“They were looking for bombs and things that could hurt other people,” he said. He said he also liked the tent area where he got to taste a Meal Ready to Eat and see how his dad might live in a deployed environment. Edwin said it looked like camping, but “a little more dangerous.”

“You can always see the anxiety and that they really don’t understand or fully comprehend what’s going on,” Sergeant Santos said.

“When I heard about (Operation Hero), I saw the opportunity to bring him out and give him a taste of what it is that I’m going to go through, the process that we go through, the whole nine yards.”

Jennifer LaBorde, 15 year old sister of Staff Sgt. Amanda Patrick who is a training manager assigned to the 33rd MXOS, said she didn’t know much about her sister’s job.

“All I knew is that she is a training manager,” Jennifer said. “I came here, and I saw how her life would be if she got deployed. I think I learned the most from the MREs and the tents because I had never really seen a cot before. I got to see the netting they have to use



Senior Airman Tierra Cope explains mobility bags to some of the children who attended Operation Hero at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 8. The event was designed to help children better understand what a deployment is and what happens when their parents deploy. Airman Cope is a mobility apprentice in the 33rd Maintenance Operations Squadron.

for protection and I learned about the living quarters.”

Jennifer also got to taste a cheese tortellini MRE.

“I’d seen MREs before, but I’ve never made one, and temperature-wise, it was good; otherwise, it was not up to par,” she said.

Colonel Williams said Operation Hero may not make it any easier for the children to be without their parents, but maybe they will understand a little bit more about a deployment.

“We’ve been doing this at Langley

for about four years,” said Master Sgt. Victoria Edmundson, from the 1st Mission Support Squadron at Langley AFB, Va. She brought her experience here to help kick off what officials said is sure to be an annual event.

“(Organizers) really had a good handle on this when I got here,” she said.

Operation Hero ended in the hangar with a pizza party for everyone. Although there were plenty of MREs to go around, the cheese pizza seemed to be the preferred choice.



Col. Brett Williams, 33rd Fighter Wing commander, talks with families before the kick off of Operation Hero Jan. 8. The event was designed to help children better understand what a deployment is and what happens when their parents deploy. (Right) Sparky, the fire dog, embraces one of the kids.



Laughlin civilian sets record in DoD leadership program

By Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack
Public Affairs

One of Laughlin’s top ranking civilian employees recently walked with sixty-one other honorees during the first graduation class ceremony of the newly formed Defense Leadership and Management Program.

Mark A. Hewitt, the 47th Flying Training Wing deputy director of maintenance, graduated Dec. 15, after completing all of the requirements for the comprehensive five-year Department of Defense program, in only two years, surpassing over 1,000 other students in his class.

DLAMP, established in 1997, is designed to develop highly capable senior civilian executives with a DoD perspective. Participants are accepted in the program through a highly competitive nomination process, and are given five years to complete a set of requirements via



Courtesy photo

Mark A. Hewitt, the 47th Flying Training Wing deputy director of maintenance, receives a certificate of completion from the Honorable Charles S. Abell, principal deputy under Secretary of Defense for personnel and readiness, during a graduation ceremony Dec. 15. Mr. Hewitt completed the five-year Defense Leadership and Management Program in only two years.

a progression track. Those entering the program having already completed some of the requirements, have less to accomplish in order to achieve completion. After gaining acceptance in

June 2002, Mr. Hewitt entered the program with a master’s degree in business administration, combined with agency experience, so he only needed to complete the Professional Military Education requirement. He fulfilled this prerequisite by attending an 11-month program at the Naval War College located in Newport, R.I., in August 2002.

Policy making and implementation, executive decision making, strategy and force policy were just a few of the courses included in the NWC curriculum. He also attended electives in the organization, function and capability of the CIA, and completed an independent-study program with the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. Hewitt plans to apply his newly acquired master’s degree in national security and strategic studies from NWC, and his broader view of what’s going on in the world, to the more concentrated scope of things here.

Double duties...

Airman 1st Class Jillian Smith wears two uniforms. As an active-duty Airman (left), she is a communications journeyman assigned to the 27th Intelligence Support Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, Va. In her off-duty time, she volun-

teers as a second lieutenant (right) with the Civil Air Patrol. A non-profit corporation, CAP is congressionally chartered to perform emergency services such as search and rescue, homeland security and cadet and aerospace education programs.



photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Marina Pevey

2X2

2X2

1X2

Twins celebrate a half century of service

By Lanorris Askew
78th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Many things have changed at Robins in the past 50 years. There have been runway extensions, new buildings, new units and a string of commanders. But there has been one constant: the presence of Billy and Bobby Edwards, who are logistics management specialists.

The 69-year-old identical twins joined federal service shortly after graduating from high school, and they say they have never looked back.

“It has been a very interesting, challenging and rewarding career,” said Bobby, the younger of the two by 15 minutes. “I’ve enjoyed it tremendously, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world.”

Born and reared in Perry, Ga., the two moved to the city of Warner Robins in 1947.



Photo by Sue Sapp

Bobby (left) and Billy Edwards received pins for 50 years of service recently. The 69-year-old identical twins joined federal service at Robins shortly after graduating from high school.

After graduating from Perry High School, they began their post-secondary education at Georgia Alabama Business College in nearby Macon.

While attending the business school, they saw a notice explaining how to apply for

employment on the base.

“Everyone was filling out applications, and we did too,” Billy said. “We were notified to come and take the examination that was required to process us into government employment, and the rest is

history.”

The brothers have seen a lot of changes at Robins since their arrival as supply clerks a half century ago.

“Our first job was to keep up with the materials in the bins in the warehouse,” Billy said.

The brothers said they kept their records in a way that is very different from the way the job is done now — they used a pad and pencil.

“It was all manual then,” Billy said. “There were no computers or automated processes. Even adding machines were very rare.

While their milestone of 50 years is unique to their family, working at Robins is not. Their mother, father and brother also worked here.

“Our father was a hydraulic bearing specialist, our mother was a supply specialist, and our brother worked in engineering,” Billy said.

Looking back on their time here, the brothers said they have fond memories and

no regrets.

“This career has given me opportunities to travel all over the world, opportunities that I wouldn’t have otherwise had,” Bobby said. “People don’t have those kinds of opportunities every day.”

They said they take their commitment as logistics management specialists seriously.

“I don’t have any plans of giving it up,” Bobby said. “When people ask what I plan to do now that I am getting my 50-year pin, I say, ‘I may be here for 20 more years. Do you think I could make it?’ They ask, ‘Are you sick in the head?’ and I say, ‘No.’ Everybody has got to be somewhere, and if I like what I’m doing, then that’s what counts.”

Bobby said that not many people reach the 50-year mark.

“Most people say, ‘Give me 30 years at 55 and let me go home.’ Well at 55, I wasn’t ready to go home.”

‘Gimme’ a dollar ride...

Maj. Cliff Wilson, a 96th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, demonstrates a strapping technique to 2nd Lt. Jozsef Jonas, a 47th Operations Group T-6 student, just before heading off for the lieutenant’s dollar ride; a time-honored tradition where the student gives the Instructor Pilot a dollar at the end of his first flight as a way of saying “thank you” for their training. This marks another milestone toward the achievement of the

American dream for Lieutenant Jonas. His amazing story began behind the Iron Curtain in Hungary, and has since progressed from the Hungarian Military Academy to the United States Air Force’s Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training 06-02. Major Wilson, Lieutenant Jonas’ confidant, was instrumental in helping him overcome the many hurdles that arose during the long and arduous process. This was Major Wilson’s “fini” flight; he will hang up his Air Force wings to become a part-time Air Force Academy admissions liaisons officer, while continuing to fly for Southwest Airlines.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack

Commissary
hours

The commissary is open:

Tuesdays
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursdays
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sundays
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Mondays
Closed



Intramural Basketball
Standings

<u>Team</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Win</u>	<u>Loss</u>
CES	4	1
CCS	3	3
MDG	0	6
MSS	4	2
SFS	1	4
84th/85th	2	3
86th	6	0
87th	1	6
LCSAM	5	1

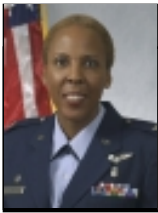
XL Fitness
Center
hours

298-5251



Monday - Thursday:
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday:
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.



What's
up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group
commander

Question: When I called the clinic last week to see if I could be seen for a routine appointment, I was told there weren't any routine appointments available because they were at minimum manning for a field training exercise. I don't understand why clinic personnel were doing field training instead of seeing patients

Answer: The Air Force Medical Service has under gone dramatic changes in recent years to ensure the success of our expeditionary mission. The most significant change is that our number one priority has become a commitment to ensure our personnel are ready to deploy at a moments notice to support the war-fighters in the field.

You've witnessed examples of the importance of our support mission during events that rapidly developed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

It was clinical personnel, just like those in the 47th Medical Group that have to deploy to bare-base operations, in austere conditions, performing medical operations that are far removed from their normal clinic environment.

Our success today is in having every one of our people highly trained in field operations, prepared to prevent illness, save lives, and bring our troops home alive and healthy. The good news is that we are still committed to providing the highest quality of care and superior customer service to our important family members on the home front.

To make our dual mission a success, we need our patient's help in ensuring they take full advantage of our prevention services and take responsibility for empowering themselves with knowledge. We encourage our patients to frequently utilize the "Take Care of Yourself" handbook, and use our extensive

TRICARE On Line web site (www.tricareonline.com) for getting up to the date medical information and avoid unnecessary clinic visits.

For emergency questions we have a Flight Surgeon on call at 703-9207 available for aerospace issues, and a Family Care provider on call for inpatient admissions to Val Verde Regional Medical Center.

Also, you can contact our Family Care provider on call for advice and authorization for emergency care from 4:30 p.m. 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, weekends, and holidays at 703-6199.

Thanks for your question!



You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil if you have a *What's Up Doc?* question.

Back in style...

Master Sgt. Mitchell Morton performs with the U.S. Air Force Band's Silver Wings, Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. He recently returned to service after battling leukemia. Sergeant Mitchell, a band member, was medically retired from the band and after his recovery he joined the USAF Band again. The sergeant had acute promyelocytic leukemia or "APL," which is the rapid accumulation of abnormal white blood cells in the bone marrow and the blood, resulting in anemia, bleeding and susceptibility to infection.

